

About the Faculty

ANNA S. RICHARDSON is the codirector and chief counsel of Veterans Legal Services (VLS) in Boston. She leads VLS programs and is widely known for her expertise in veterans' legal needs. She has served as faculty for the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute Basic Benefits Training and several other seminars offered by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education on state and federal veterans' benefits. She has also performed trainings on veterans' legal issues for the Boston Bar Association, the Legal Advocacy and Resource Center, the justices of the probate and family court, and legal services agencies. In 2011, Ms. Richardson received Boston University School of Law's Victor J. Garo Public Service Award, presented annually to two alumni for their commitment and dedication to public service. In 2015, she was selected as a "Boston Rising Star" by the National Law Journal and Connecticut Law Tribune. In 2018, VLS was recognized with the Reginald Heber Smith Award for Excellence in Legal Services by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. (May 2021)

BETSY GWIN is a Senior Economic Justice Attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, where her work focuses on Safety Net Programs. She engages in litigation and policy and legislative advocacy on behalf of low-income communities and coalitions. Previously, Betsy worked as a clinical instructor at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School and as a public defender in child welfare proceedings at the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

DANA MONTALTO is a Senior Clinical Instructor and Lecturer-on-Law in the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School. She represents veterans and their family members in accessing state and federal veterans benefits programs and advocates for veterans who unjustly received less-than-honorable discharges in seeking military discharge upgrades. Dana founded the Veterans Justice Pro Bono Partnership, which connects veterans who wrongfully received less-than-honorable discharges with pro bono attorneys seeking to give back to those who served. She is an Author/Editor of the Military Discharge Upgrade Legal Practice Manual and she co-authored *With Malice Toward None: Revisiting the Historical & Legal Basis for Excluding Veterans from "Veteran" Services*, 122 Penn. St. L. Rev. 69 (2017). Dana received her bachelor's degree, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Wellesley College and her law degree from Yale Law School, where she participated in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic and the International Refugee Assistance Project. She joined the Legal Services Center in 2014 as an Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow after completing a clerkship for the Honorable F. Dennis Saylor IV of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

SCOTT PITTA is a US Army combat veteran who served in Iraq from late 2003 until early 2005 as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot. After his time in the Army, he worked as a helicopter pilot for various federal government contractors and as an emergency medical helicopter captain. Scott earned his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 2020 as a distinguished graduate of the Trial and Appellate Advocacy program. Scott brings experience representing clients in various probate and family court cases, as well as administrative cases. He holds a Master's of Aeronautical/Astronautical Science and is an FAA certified airline transport pilot.

LYNETTE GABRILA is a proud Army veteran and dedicated Director of Veterans' Services for the Wachusett District, which includes the City of Gardner and the Towns of Ashburnham, Ashby, Princeton, and Westminster. She possesses over 10 years of experience advocating and empowering area veterans. In her role, she provides vital support to local veterans and their families through the administration of Ch115 financial assistance and filing for federal and state benefits. Lynette ensures that all veterans, regardless of their background, are treated with respect and dignity in an inclusive environment. Beyond her professional commitment to veterans, Lynette is actively involved in various charitable organizations and causes. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Worcester State University and recently earned her Master's degree in Social Work from Boston College in 2021. With her expertise in trauma-informed VA claims, Lynette focuses on helping veterans navigate the complexities of PTSD resulting from combat and/or military sexual trauma.